

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

SCA-01 USIA-06 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01 SP-02 /121 W

----- 080265

R 030635Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2772

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

US MISSION GENEVA 107

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SREF, SO

SUBJECT: CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: MOGADISCIO 0396

1. WFP DIRECTOR OUFU PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO ON REFUGEE SITUATION TO EMBOFF ON APRIL 2.

2. CAMP POPULATION. BETWEEN MARCH 5 AND MARCH 31 RELIEF CAMP POPULATION GREW BY 27,613 TO REACH TOTAL OF 200,375. GROWTH AVERAGED 1,750 PER DAY DURING FINAL WEEK OF THE MONTH. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF PERSONS LEAVING CAMPS SINCE MARCH 12.

3. MORTALITY. DURING MARCH 5 - MARCH 31 PERIOD, DEATHS HAVE AVERAGED NEARLY 125 PER DAY, MOST OF WHICH AMONG CHILDREN. WORST CENTERS IN THIS REGARD ARE IN TOGDHEER, NUGAAL AND GALGUUDUD DISTRICTS WHERE MALNUTRITION/DEHYDRATION CYCLE COMMON DUE TO POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN UPON ARRIVAL AT CAMP. DEATH RATES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN REDUCED BY 50 PERCENT IN THESE DISTRICTS

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RECENTLY THROUGH IMPROVED MEDICAL CARE AND SANITARY CONDITIONS.

HOWEVER, CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF GLUCOSE, FOR REHYDRATION, PERSISTS.

4. FOOD SUPPLY. OVERALL GRAIN SUPPLY APPEARS ADEQUATE THROUGH AUGUST IF PROMISED DELIVERIES MATERIALIZE. ESTIMATED MONTHLY REQUIREMENT FOR SOMALIA (INCLUDING FOR THOSE IN RELIEF CAMPS) IS 15,000 TONS PER MONTH (OR 120,000 TONS FOR JANUARY - AUGUST PERIOD). DONATIONS OF 92,000 TONS HAVE BEEN PLEDGED FOR PERIOD AND GSDR HAS BEEN ABLE TO SECURE COMMITMENTS TOTALING 40,000 TONS VIA COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. HOWEVER, PORT CONGESTION COULD BE A PROBLEM IN MAY WHEN 45,000 - 50,000 TONS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE JUST BEFORE MONSOON SEASON. THIS MAKES DISCHARGE AT MOGADISCIO (WHICH GSDR STILL INSISTS UPON) AN IFFY AFFAIR.

5. PROSPECTS. COMING TWO MONTHS ARE CRITICAL TO REFUGEE SITUATION. IF MONSOONAL RAINS ARE ADEQUATE, SOMALIA WILL HAVE FOOD FOR SECOND HALF OF YEAR AND REFUGEE POPULATION WILL DECLINE AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT AS HERDERS LEAVE CAMPS TO GRAZE ANIMALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF RAINS FAIL, FOOD STOCKS WILL BE NON-EXISTENT AND RELIEF CENTER POPULATION WILL SOAR.

HAMRICK

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